

Learning Module 8

Correction:

The British Library Map Collections: <http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/maps/index.html>

Atlases and Geographical sources

Characteristics and Issues of Geographical Sources

- graphic versus textual
- size of physical item (oversize books)
- storage of large maps, paper maps
- used for locating a place
- have a related time period (current versus historical map)
- scale of map (how much detail, how much coverage)

Geographical Questions

- current events
 - request to find geographic information about the location of a news item
- historical events (often best served with old reference materials)
 - genealogy
 - military history
 - place name changes
- recreation
 - maps, charts, topographic maps, guidebooks, etc for travellers
- business
 - similar to recreational travel needs

Evaluating Geographic Sources

- Publisher: is the publisher reliable, have previous maps proven to be accurate
- Scope and Audience: who is the audience of the map? is it aimed at children? topical maps are aimed at specific areas of research and study
- Scale and Projection: maps are classified according to scale (how much detail is shown on the map, one unit on the map equals a specific length on the ground e.g. one inch on the map is one mile on the ground); maps are also classified according to projection (the method used to map a round earth onto a flat map)

- Colour and Symbols: may indicate political boundaries, geographic or environmental information, demographics or topology and terrain
- Currency: is the map current? historical maps are deliberately not current, then it is necessary to establish if the map was accurate
- Indexes: does the map have an index? a detailed map without an index can be very unusable
- Format: print vs online, print maps are often easier to use since they allow a user to see the whole picture
- Cost: how much?

Selection of Geographic Sources

- needs of the users
- types of questions users are most likely to ask (current events, historical, recreational or business)
- format of the source (print, electronic, online, globes, etc)

Geographic Sources

0. Guides to Geographical Sources

- standard reference guides like ARBA and Publisher's Weekly
- American Library Association Map & Geography Round Table: Base Line
<http://www.ala.org/ala/magert/publicationsab/publicationsa.cfm>
- Odden's Bookmarks <http://oddens.geog.uu.nl/index.php>
- Omni Resources <http://www.omnimap.com/>
- David Cobb's Guide to US Map Resources.

1. Government Geographic Institutes

- US Geological Survey <http://www.usgs.gov/>
- Geological Society of Canada http://gsc.nrcan.gc.ca/index_e.php
- United Nations Cartographic Section
<http://www.un.org/Depts/Cartographic/english/htmain.htm>

2. Map Collections

- Alexandria Digital Library Project <http://www.alexandria.ucsb.edu/>

- Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/index.html>
- Library of Congress Map Collections <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/>
- New York Public Library Map Division
<http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/map/map.html>
- Online Map Catalogs in North America and Europe
<http://www.sunysb.edu/libmap/libcats.htm>
- A Directory of UK Map Collections
<http://www.cartography.org.uk/Pages/Publicat/Ukdir/>
- The British Library Map Collections <http://www.bl.uk/collections/maps.html>

3. Atlases

- Hammond, Inc. Ambassador World Atlas (C.W. Post Main Reference G1019 .H265 OVSZ)
- Rand McNally Cosmopolitan World Atlas <http://www.randmcnally.com/>
- National Geographic Atlas of the World
<http://plasma.nationalgeographic.com/mapmachine/>
- The New York Times Atlas of the World (C.W. Post Main Reference Annex Level B G1021 .N57 1992 OVSZ)
- WorldAtlas.com <http://www.worldatlas.com/aatlas/world.htm>

3.1 Historical Atlases.

- Atlas of American History (C.W. Post Main Reference G1201.S1 F4 1987)
- The Historical Atlas of the American Revolution (C.W. Post Main Circulation E208 .B36 2000 OVSZ)
- National Geographic historical atlas of the United States (C.W. Post Main Reference G1201.S1 F5 2004 OVSZ)
- The African-American Atlas : Black history and culture--an illustrated reference (C.W. Post Main Reference E185 .A79 1998 OVSZ)
- Cultural Maps in American Studies http://xroads.virginia.edu/~MAP/map_hp.html#atlas
- Canada At Scale: Maps in Canadian History, Library and Archives Canada
<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/maps/index-e.html>
- The Canadian County Atlas Digital Project, McGill University
<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/>

3.2 Topical Atlases

- Oxford Economic Atlas of the World (C.W. Post Main Reference G1046.G1 O92 1972)
- Peters Atlas of the World (C.W. Post Main Reference G1021 .P4 1990 OVSZ)
- Rand McNally Commercial Atlas of the US (C.W. Post Main Reference G1019 .R22 OVSZ)
- United Nations Atlas of the Oceans <http://www.oceansatlas.com/index.jsp>
- United Nations Environment Programme http://na.unep.net/digital_atlas2/google.php
- European Digital Archive on Soil Maps of the World
http://eusoiils.jrc.it/esdb_archive/EuDASM/indexes/access.htm
- The historical atlas of American crime / Fred Rosen (C.W. Post Main Reference HV6779 .R67 2005)

4. Road Maps and Atlases

- Rand McNally Road Atlas of the US, Canada and Mexico <http://www.randmcnally.com/>
- Hammond Road Atlas and Vacation Guide
- Street Maps (any major city map)
- Google Maps <http://maps.google.com/>
- Yahoo Maps <http://maps.yahoo.com/>
- Mapquest <http://www.mapquest.com/>

5. Gazetteers and Dictionaries (Lists of Geographical Features)

- Columbia Gazetteer of the World (C.W. Post Main Reference G103.5 .C645 1998 OVSZ) also available online <http://www.columbiagazetteer.org/> (free trial)
- Chamber's World Gazetteer (C.W. Post Main Reference G103.5 .C53 1988)
- Worldmark Encyclopedia of Nations
http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/eBooks?ste=22&docNum=CX3410299999&q=nysl_li_liu
- Worldmark Encyclopedia of the States
http://cwplib.proxy.liu.edu/login?url=http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/eBooks?ste=22&docNum=CX3410399999&q=nysl_li_liu

6. Travel or Tour Guides

- Federal Writer's Project
- Fodor's
- Mobile

- AAA
- Birnbaum's etc.

7. Maps in other reference sources

- Encyclopedias
- Almanacs
- Yearbooks
- History/Geography maps